Amendments to the Specification:

1.   Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 46, line 18 and extending to page 47, line 9 with the following amended paragraph.

IDC-C1.AMD

--For example, as shown in FIG. 6B, the two inputs **(611, 612)** on stage-1 node 0 **(621)** are locally labeled as input 0 and 1 **(631)**, and the three inputs **(613, 614, 615)** on stage-1 node 1 **(622)** are locally labeled as input 0, 1 and 2 **(632)**. Then the induced order on these five stage-1 inputs are 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4 **(633)** as in the scope of the stage. Similarly, the induced orders on the five stage-1 outputs, the five stage-2 inputs and the four stage-2 outputs <u>on node 0 **(623)** and node 1 **(624)**</u> are 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 **(634)**, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 **(635)** and 0, 1, 2, 3 **(636)**, respectively. Note that in graph representation, the labels for the local I/O orders and the induced I/O orders are usually not shown unless they need to be explicitly referred to. The external inputs of a multi-stage network are the same as stage-1 inputs, and external outputs are the same as final-stage outputs.--

2.   Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 46, line 18 and extending to page 47, line 9 with the following amended paragraph.

IDC-C2,AMD

--The 8-to-4 concentrator 7000 depicted in FIG. 70A can be adapted into an 8-to-4 multicast concentrator 7100 depicted in FIG. 71A as follows. The underlying interconnection network is unchanged, but a bicast cell <u>**7101-0,1,2,3; 7102-0,1,2,3; 7103-0,1,2,3; 7104-0,1,2,3**</u> replaces every sorting cell in the concentrator. As before, the arrow on a bicast cell always points to output-1. In the test run of routing packets through this multicast concentrator as illustrated in FIG. 71A, the eight input packets a, b, c, d, e, f, g, and h are respectively idle, 0-bound, bicast, 0-bound, bicast, bicast, 1-bound, and 1-bound and respectively represented as `a(I)`, `b(0)`, `c(B)`, `d(0)`, `e(B)`, `f(B)`, `g(1)`, and `h(1)`. Among the three bicast packets, only packet c(B) is bicasted, that is, it successfully converts itself into a 0-bound copy and a 1-bound copy, and this conversion occurs at the bicast cell **7102-1** when `c(B)` meets the idle packet `a(I)` and thereby produces `c(0)` and `c(1)`. The other two bicast packets `e(B)` and `f(B)` remain bicast packets throughout the multicast concentrator.--